

ARTICLE ROUND UP

October 2009

ECONOMICS AND TRADE SECURITY

1. Economic Security for a World in Crisis

Muhammad Yunus. World Policy Journal, Summer 2009, 8 pages.

The author discusses the global economic crisis, focusing on the need to change the theoretical framework of capitalism. The author examines why social problems cannot be solved by the economic system that existed in 2009, and explores the assumption that free markets can bring prosperity and wealth to those suffering from poverty and hunger.

2. Eureka Moments: How Mobile Phones Became a Tool of Global Development

Economist, September 24, 2009.

Mobile phones, now affordable for the vast majority of people around the world, have become the single most transformative tool for development, according to Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University's Earth Institute. In Africa, "mobile money" now means financial transactions can be carried out easily even in remote areas. Mobile phones play a huge role in micro-businesses, which make up 50 to 60 percent of business globally, and as much as 90 percent of businesses in Africa. Small businesses can more efficiently negotiate with suppliers and reduce the overhead associated with small enterprises. There is also some evidence that mobile phones can be used to root out corruption. The article cites an example of an official in Pakistan responsible for oversight of land transfers, who randomly called the mobile numbers of buyers and sellers to find out if they had been asked to pay bribes. Currently available online at http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14483872

3. Biotech's Plans to Sustain Agriculture

Scientific American magazine, October 2009.

Popular sentiment may call for more organic methods, but the agricultural industry sees biotechnology as a crucial part of farming's future. By 2050 or so, agriculture will need to produce about 50 percent more food than it now does because of the expanding population. Traditional crops and farming methods will not be able to sustain that level of productivity. In this panel discussion, representatives from the agricultural industry defend genetically modified crops as one of several tools that

should be used to help farmers in developing countries become more productive. Currently available online at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=biotechs-plan-to-sustain-agriculture>

4. The New Energy Beat

Curtis Brainard and Cristine Russell. Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2009.

Reporting on climate change and energy issues behooves journalists to collaborate within the newsroom and with news outlets to expand expertise and resources to better explain these critical, complex topics. Varied regional concerns and new technologies increase the need for a broad knowledge base that allows reporters to delve into the pronouncements of politicians and industry lobbyists. Covering energy well means giving a comprehensive “big picture” that can both inform and influence the public and policy makers. Available online at http://www.cjr.org/feature/the_new_energy_beat.php

5. Emerging Markets Poised to Perform

Jonathan Anderson. Far Eastern Economic Review, September 2009, 5 pages.

Developing countries are confounding expectations that slowing external demand from Western consumers will kill their growth. The author, a global emerging-markets economist at UBS, wades into the decoupling debate with an explanation as to why Asia is continuing to grow through the crisis.

SOCIAL ISSUES AND GOVERNANCE

6. What Consumers Want from Mobile Communications

Darrell M. West. The Brookings Institution, September 2009, 19 pages.

Consumer sentiments are crucial for telecommunications. The way in which cell phone users see their devices affects how they employ them and what future possibilities they are willing to entertain. The author, Vice President and Director of Governance Studies at Brookings, explores what consumers want from new mobile communications in four different countries (the United States, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Japan) and how these results demonstrate the virtue of innovation and open networks for communications policy.

Full text currently available at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/09_mobile_west/09_mobile_west.pdf

7. Capitalism After the Crisis

Luigi Zingales. National Affairs, No. 1, Fall 2009, pp. 22-35

Zingales, professor at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, writes that the nature of the financial crisis, and the government's response to it, threatens to undermine America's unique brand of capitalism, and move the country in the direction of state corporatism.

8. Take a Stand: How Journalism Can Regain Its Relevance

Brent Cunningham. Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2009.

Journalism in America has been damaged by its abdication of an adversarial role in public discourse. Instead, it "mostly amplifies the agendas of others—the prominent and powerful," maintains the author. He examines the changing dynamic of the news media and questions whether it has the ability to moderate public conversation or to introduce new angles on and ideas about national issues. Calling press objectivity "a trap" that lessens journalism's beneficial impact, he says the press needs to be on the side of the people and become a platform for establishing a public agenda. Available online at http://www.cjr.org/feature/take_a_stand.php

INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL SECURITY

9. Get Smart: Combining Hard and Soft Power

Joseph S. Jr Nye. Foreign Affairs, July/August 2009, 4 pages.

"Smart power" is a term the author developed in 2003 to counter the misperception that soft power alone can produce effective foreign policy. Power is one's ability to affect the behavior of others to get what one wants. There are three basic ways to do this: coercion, payment, and attraction. Hard power is the use of coercion and payment. Soft power is the ability to obtain preferred outcomes through attraction. In an otherwise estimable new book, *Power Rules: How Common Sense Can Rescue American Foreign Policy*, Leslie Gelb argues that "soft power now seems to mean almost everything" because both economic and military resources can influence other states. But Gelb confuses the actions of a state seeking to achieve desired outcomes with the resources used to produce those outcomes. Broader goals, such as promoting democracy, protecting human rights, and developing civil society, are not best handled with guns.

10. Us-Un Ties Still Strained

Barbara Crossette. The Nation, October 2, 2009

The Obama administration's efforts to mend ties with the United Nations suffered with the UN's firing of Peter Galbraith, the American diplomat who was appointed deputy UN special envoy to Afghanistan in March. The UN said he was fired "in the best interests" of the Afghan mission, but Galbraith had been berating Afghan and UN officials over what he saw as an inadequate response to the messy and fraud-plagued August 20 elections. He told BBC that his being sacked "sends a terrible signal when the UN removes an official because he was concerned about fraud in a UN-sponsored and funded election." Currently available online at:

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20091019/crossette>

11. Eastphalia Rising? Asian Influence and the Fate of Human Security

David P. Fidler, et al. World Policy Journal, Summer 2009, 12 pages.

The authors discuss how the migration of influence and power towards Asia will impact global affairs. A focus on the possibility that the global economic crisis could allow Asian countries to develop an Eastphalian system is presented with the assertion that an Eastphalian world order would reinvigorate ideas of national sovereignty and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of states.

12. The China-US Relationship Goes Global

Kenneth Lieberthal. Current History September 2009, pages 243-250.

According to the author, the elevation of the global economy and climate change to the top of the bilateral agenda introduces new opportunities and perils into the relationship.

13. NATO and Russia: Partnership or Peril?

Dimitri Trenin. Current History October 2009, page 299-303.

The author argues that to avoid a new cold war, the Atlantic alliance and Russia need to decide, and soon, whether they want to build security with or against each other. Partnership would be far better for both sides.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

14. Water Scarcity Looms

Gary Gardner. WorldWatch Institute. August 6, 2009, 6 pages.

Water scarcity is increasing in many regions of the world, as many factors, including population growth, climate change, and pollution restrict the amount of water available relative to demand. The author, a Senior Researcher at WorldWatch Institute, discusses the causes of water scarcity -- a looming new

threat to water supplies globally -- and presents a variety of solutions to address the issue of water scarcity.

15. Is a Green World a Safer World?

David J. Rothkopf. Foreign Policy, September/October 2009, 4 pages.

Greening the world will certainly eliminate some of the most serious risks we face, but will it also create new ones? The author explores the potential for green geopolitical crises and discusses whether a shift away from dirty old fuels can actually reduce the security threats that our planet faces.

16. China, the United States, and The Climate Change Challenge

World Resources Institute. Deborah Seligsohn et al. October 2009, 19 pages.

The report discusses the successes of and challenges to effective regulation in China. It also addresses U.S. competitiveness concerns in relation to the introduction of U.S. cap-and-trade policies, and specific opportunities for enhanced climate change cooperation between the two countries.

Full text available at

http://pdf.wri.org/china_united_states_climate_change_challenge.pdf

17. Six Sources of Limitless Energy?

Gardiner Morse. Harvard Business Review, September 2009, pp. 66-67, 2 pages)

The article reports on six sustainable sources of energy that use technologies based on wind, sun, algae, ocean waves, and nuclear and geothermal energy. Innovations in energy technologies are discussed, including the stages of development for high-altitude wind turbines, genetically engineered algae that are used for biofuel, wave power from the ocean, nuclear fusion, enhanced geothermal systems, and solar cells on satellites that will be placed in space.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

18. America Falling: Longtime Dominance in Education Erodes

Karin Fischer. Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 7, October 9, 2009, pp. A1, A21-A23.

The U.S. is still the top choice of international students, but by many measures, U.S. preeminence in education is eroding. As evidence of this erosion, Fischer cites the low percentage of Americans graduating with majors in engineering, the declining percentage of highly-qualified, low-income students who go to college, and continuing rounds of budget cuts. Many who start doctoral programs fail to

finish, especially women and minorities; more than half of the doctorates awarded by U.S. institutions went to foreign students. "I'm worried we won't realize what's at stake until it's too late," says Charles Vest, former president of MIT. The current economic and fiscal crisis has put U.S. public higher education in a more precarious position. Federal and state requirements have often put such programs as Medicaid and elementary and secondary education off-limits for budget-cutting purposes, leaving higher education to take the brunt of the cuts, as in California. Some experts are calling for a larger federal role and long-term strategic planning; others are leery of an enlarged federal role and call instead for a national discussion of education. The U.S. system was never designed to educate most Americans, says Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; "We're still stuck on having the best higher-education system in the 20th century, when it's almost a decade into the 21st century."

19. Our Evanescent Culture and The Awesome Duty of Librarians

Richard Heinberg. Energy Bulletin, October 7, 2009.

How secure is our civilization's accumulated knowledge? Educator and author Heinberg notes that, over the millennia, earlier civilizations have disappeared, as they did not give sufficient thought to how their societies' achievements would be preserved. Although the sheer volume of modern cultural materials is unprecedented, in many ways our modern heritage is uniquely vulnerable, and large swaths of it are at risk of being swept away at astonishing speed. The problem, notes Heinberg, is digitization -- not just that storage formats become obsolete, but that the entire cultural enterprise depends on electricity: "digitization represents a huge bet on society's ability to keep the lights on forever." The real threats to modern information are systemic vulnerabilities, such as aging infrastructure and declining supplies of fossil fuels to power the electric grid. He says that the message is clear: don't let books die, and promote skills-based education to keep the practical and performing arts alive.

Available online at <http://www.energybulletin.net/node/50315>

20. The Magic of Social Networks

Lee Rainie. Oct 21, 2009. Wisconsin Library Association

Pew Internet Project's latest findings suggest that libraries can play a role in people's social networks in the future. Available online at <http://www.pewinternet.org/Presentations/2009/42--The-Magic-of-Social-Networks.aspx>

21. A Day in the Life of 3G

Mark Sullivan. PC World, June 29, 2009, 6 pages.

The author, a PC World senior associate editor, discusses the results of a test conducted on third-generation (3G) wireless services being offered by AT&T, Sprint and Verizon across the United States during March and April 2009, focusing on download speeds, network reliability, and operating speeds at testing locations.

Full text currently available at:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/167391/a_day_in_the_life_of_3g.html

22. The Future (We Hope) of Journalism

John S. Carroll. Poynter Online, May 19, 2008, 10 pages.

In the future, journalism will be quite flexible, making fluid use of video, audio, and text to tell stories in the best way they can be told. Who will do the reporting in the digital future? What principles, if any, will guide the journalism of the digital age? The author, a former editor of the Lexington Herald-Leader, the Baltimore Sun, and the Los Angeles Times, discusses journalism in the digital age.

Full text currently available at:

http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=142379

23. How Can We Increase Teacher Quality?

Lawrence Hardy. American School Board Journal, September 2009, Vol. 196 Issue 9, pp 20-25, 6pgs

The article presents a reprint of the article "The Quest for Quality" which appeared in the previous issue of "The American School Board Journal." It discusses the issue of improving teaching methods in schools, which is one of President Barack Obama's goals. It also explores changes proposed by the Obama administration that promotes teacher quality and the issue of performance-based pay for teachers.

24. Can the Future Be Built in America

Peter Engardio. BusinessWeek, September 21, 2009, 5 pages.

U.S. high tech companies are developing products that could shake up entire industries. But unless the U.S. can restore its manufacturing base, those products will be built overseas. According to the author, having smarter tax policies, low-cost loans, and special industrial zones could keep these well-paying jobs in America.

NEW & FREE DOWNLOAD PUBLICATION:

Outline of the U.S. Economy. U.S. Dept of State, Bureau of International Information Programs, September 2009 – a newly updated edition of this longstanding explanatory book about the United States economy, its development and dynamics. It is also available in PDF format (67 pages). See details at,

<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/outline-of-the-us-economy.html>

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